

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing an aromatic diisocyanates ~~diisocyanate~~ by ~~reaction of~~ reacting a phosgene with ~~diamines~~ a diamine in the gas phase, wherein the reaction is carried out in a reaction zone in which the pressure is more than 3 bar and less than 20 bar and the temperature in the reaction zone is from more than 200°C to less than 600°C.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature in the reaction zone is ~~selected so that it is~~ below the boiling point of ~~the~~ said diamine ~~used~~ under the pressure conditions prevailing in the reaction zone.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein an inert medium is fed into the reaction zone in addition to said diamine and said phosgene in such an amount that the concentration of inert medium at the outlet from the reaction zone is more than 25 mol/m³.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the concentration of said phosgene in the reaction gas at the outlet from the reaction zone is more than 25 mol/m³.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ which claim 1, wherein said process is carried out continuously.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ which claim 1, wherein said process is carried out in a production plant ~~in which~~ wherein the phosgene holdup in the reaction zone for the reaction of ~~the aromatic~~ said diamine with said phosgene in the plant is less than 100 kg.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A production plant for preparing an aromatic ~~diisocyanates~~ diisocyanate by ~~reaction of~~ reacting a phosgene with ~~diamines~~ a diamine in the gas phase at a pressure of more than 3 bar and less than 20 bar, wherein said production plant ~~which~~ has a ratio of production capacity to phosgene holdup of more than 3200 [[][]]metric tons of diisocyanate per year/kilogram of phosgene[[]].

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A production plant as claimed in claim 7 ~~which has~~ having a production capacity of more than 50 000 metric tons of diisocyanate per year.